

Kaifu ends Mideast visit

MUSCAT (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu affirmed his country's insistence on an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait and the return of the rule of the Al Sabah family as he wound up a five-state Middle East tour Monday. Kaifu's spokesman, Shigeo Taketaka, in a statement distributed by the official Omani News Agency said the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was "unacceptable." The Gulf crisis should be solved by peaceful means and within the framework of the U.N. Security Council resolutions, he said in the statement distributed in Arabic. "Japan insists on the Iraqi pullout from Kuwait, the return of its legitimate government and the release of all hostages detained in Iraq," he added. Kaifu was in Oman on the fifth leg of a tour that started Oct. 2 in Egypt and took him to Jordan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia before he came to Oman. The spokesman said that his talks with the Omani ruler, Sultan Qaboos, helped further development of "excellent bilateral relations" between the two countries. Japan, which depends on the Middle East for the bulk of its oil needs, buys 48 per cent of Oman's daily output of some 650,000 barrels. The sultan accepted an invitation to visit Tokyo, the spokesman said.

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King condolences UAE president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of condolences to the president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, over the death of UAE Vice-President Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum of Dubai. King Hussein also sent a similar cable to Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, son of the deceased, and to the Maktoum family. The King said in his cable that he would always remember the stands of the deceased towards Jordan, which has shouldered and will continue to shoulder its Arab and Islamic responsibilities. (See related story on page 2)

King visits army unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Monday visited the command of the Twelfth Royal Mechanized Division where he was received by the division's commander and senior officers. King Hussein, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, was briefed by the commander on the training process and the division's duties.

Saudi said to bar Arafat plane

AMMAN (R) — Saudi Arabia prevented a Libyan plane carrying Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat crossing its airspace to Yemen, a PLO official said Monday. The Saudi authorities did not give clearance to a private Libyan plane carrying Abu Azzam to fly over their territory. Abu Azzam had to take another plane to Sanaa. PLO Executive Committee member Mohammad Mithem told Reuters. Arafat was travelling to Yemen.

Somali rebels hold Red Cross workers

GENEVA (R) — Two Red Cross workers seized by Somali rebels last weekend are in good health but a third was confirmed killed in the rebel ambush, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Monday. "We had confirmation from SNM (Somali National Movement) sources this morning that the two are in good health around 30 kilometres southeast of Hargeisa," a spokeswoman in the ICRC's Geneva headquarters said. A Somali police vehicle carrying four Red Cross workers was ambushed by SNM guerrillas in northwest Somalia Saturday. Swiss ICRC delegate Peter Alweg died of his wounds in Hargeisa. Swiss ICRC worker Antonella Notari and Somali Red Crescent representative Salma Ahmad Jana were captured and Somali Red Crescent worker Hassan Arab was able to flee.

Soviet military team visits Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — A Soviet military delegation arrived in Damascus Monday for a week-long visit at the invitation of the Syrian army command, officials said. The delegation, led by Major-General Nicolae Kolovits, was welcomed at the airport by Mohammed Ibrahim Al Ali, commander of the Syrian army. In an airport statement, Kolovits praised cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union, and stressed the need to improve their already good ties.

Gorbachev warns against separatism

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev warned Communist Party leaders Monday that failure to contain separatism in the Soviet Union's restive republics could lead to the country breaking up like Lebanon. Gorbachev, addressing the first plenary meeting of the party's Central Committee since last July's landmark party congress, also urged Communists to abandon once and for all their prejudices against "bourgeois market economies." The Soviet leader, whose opening speech to the plenum was reported by TASS news agency, said the most important task for Communists was to "resist pressure from separatist forces."

Massacre in Jerusalem

Israelis kill at least 30 Palestinians at Haram Al Sharif

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI SOLDIERS and civilians Monday shot dead between 22 and 30 Palestinians and wounded hundreds in occupied Jerusalem when they opened fire at a large group protesting against a plan by Jewish zealots to lay a foundation stone for a Jewish temple at Haram Al Sharif, which houses the third holiest shrine of Islam.

France stresses need to solve Mideast conflict; U.N. begins debate

Combined agency dispatches

PRESIDENT FRANCOIS Mitterrand said Monday the massacre of Palestinians by Israeli police in Arab Jerusalem risked creating an irreparable link between the Palestinian problem and the Gulf crisis.

Women begin sit-in strike; massive protests planned today

By Marianne M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Reaction in Jordan to the killing of 30 Palestinians and the wounding of hundreds by Israeli soldiers at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem came quickly as members of the Jordanian Women's Federation began a sit-in and hunger strike in front of the United Nations office. The women demanded that U.N. peacekeeping forces be sent to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip immediately to protect the civilian Arab population from whom the women described as "murderers."

'Sanction cargo' ship intercepted in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The royal navy fired Britain's first shots in the Gulf crisis Monday and searched two Iraqi vessels and a sharp rise in reported board-and-search operations in the region.

The Ministry of Defence in London said one of the ships, the tanker Tadmur, carried stores violating U.N. sanctions and was diverted to a Gulf report. The Tadmur was stopped in the Red Sea Sept. 27 but allowed to proceed. Asked if the Tadmur had broken U.N. sanctions, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "That is my understanding of it."

Combined agency dispatches

The Old City's narrow stone alleys cracked with automatic rifle fire. Arab Jerusalem's two main hospitals were overwhelmed with casualties. Protests spread to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In Gaza, hospitals said two Palestinians were shot dead and at least 90 were injured in clashes with troops.

Crown Prince condemns killings as outrageous

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday condemned as "outrageous" the massacre of at least 30 Palestinians in occupied Arab Jerusalem by Israeli forces.

Westerners can leave if Bush says no attack on Iraq — Aziz

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI FOREIGN Minister Tariq Aziz said Monday that Westerners being held in Iraq and Kuwait would be free to leave if President George Bush pledged not to attack his country.

Iran rules out alliance with U.S. against Iraq

PARIS (Agencies) — The idea of Iranian troops siding with the Americans against Iraq was "unimaginable," Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was quoted on Monday as saying.

'Egyptians will not join attack on Iraq'

ABU DHABI (R) — Egyptian forces have been sent to the Gulf to defend regional states and will not join any attack on Iraq, their commander said in remarks published Monday.

The paper Sunday carried similar remarks by the Syrian commander in Saudi Arabia who said his forces would not join any offensive in the region. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esam Abdul Meguid and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa repeated demands for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal after talks in Damascus Sunday. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad discussed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis with Abdul Meguid Monday, officials said.

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Crown Prince pays tribute to Japan

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"If Kuwait were to go ahead and cede Bubiyan to (Iraq) all the same, we would act within our means to stop it," Rafsanjani added. "If all countries were applying the embargo without fail like we were, Iraq would have to give up and withdraw from Kuwait," Rafsanjani declared. He said foreign military forces now in the Gulf, including Americans, British and French, would have to leave as soon as the reason for their mission — Iraq's occupation of Kuwait — was at an end.

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2 U.S. pilots die, 8 marines missing

DHAHRAN (R) — Two American pilots died when their reconnaissance plane crashed in Saudi Arabia Monday and eight marines were feared dead after their helicopters disappeared. Two pilots of the Alabama Air National Guard were killed when their RF-4C plane crashed on a "training" flight in southern Saudi Arabia, an air force statement said. The cause was unknown. Eight marines crewing two UH-1N Huey helicopters disappeared on a night training mission in the northern Arabian Sea off Oman and were feared dead, the U.S. military said. Military sources said the helicopters from the amphibious assault ship Okinawa could have collided and fallen into the sea but their disappearance was still under investigation. "We've got a lot of men and a lot of equipment out there. They've got to fly to train, so unfortunately these things happen," an air force spokesman said. Four U.S. airmen have now died in two jet crashes in Saudi Arabia since the U.S. military deployment began in August. Two crewmen were killed when their F-15 crashed in September.

PLO wants U.N.-approved relief ship for Palestinians in Kuwait.

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has asked the United Nations to allow a ship to take relief supplies to up to 300,000 Palestinians in Kuwait, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Monday.

"We approached the U.N. 15 days ago to let a provision ship go to Kuwait, like the one which supplied Indian and Vietnamese nationals," Mohammad Milhem, a member of the Executive Committee of the PLO, told Reuters.

He said the PLO was awaiting a reply from the world body, which exempted humanitarian food and medical supplies from sanctions imposed after the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"We understand there are some serious cases of every needy Palestinian families in Kuwait. Don't they have the right to feed their children too?" Milhem said. "There should be no discrimina-

tion between nationalities."

With U.N. blessing, India sent three mercy ships to Kuwait last month with relief supplies distributed by Red Cross and Indian embassy officials to Indians and other trapped foreigners in the emirate. The ships ferried hundreds of Indians home.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians fled Kuwait after the invasion, but many have returned for lack of anywhere else to go.

PLO Central Council member As'ad Abdul Rahman said Arafat, who left Amman Sunday, had ordered that the proceeds from a "liberation tax" paid by Palestinians working in the Gulf should be diverted to help the Palestinian community in Kuwait.

Palestinians in most Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, pay five per cent of their salaries, deducted at source, to the PLO-supervised Palestine National Fund.

Abdul Rahman told Reuters Arafat had told him the PLO

wanted the United Nations to share the cost of a relief ship to Kuwait.

He said the PLO office in Baghdad had already begun limited relief efforts, buying food in Iraq for a Palestinian welfare committee in Kuwait established with Iraqi permission.

The PLO has not previously announced measures to alleviate the plight of an estimated 300,000 Palestinians in Kuwait.

They were generally well-off, but many lost their life savings when the invasion all but paralysed the Kuwaiti banking system and threw the oil-based economy into chaos.

The value of their salaries plunged when Iraq decreed that the once-mighty Kuwaiti dinar equalled its own non-convertible currency and then abolished the Kuwaiti unit altogether.

The "liberation tax" is one of the pillars of PLO finances. Others are subventions from wealthy Arab states and irregular

donations by wealthy individual Palestinians.

Various banks, companies and other agencies have in the past contributed money to specific hospitals, universities or other institutions in the Israeli-occupied territories and elsewhere.

The Gulf crisis has poisoned the atmosphere between the PLO, perceived as sympathetic to Iraq, and Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, which was among the PLO's most reliable donors in the past.

Palestinian sources said the Gulf states had always used their control of the purse strings to exert political pressure on the PLO, which has long struggled to keep its independence.

"They turned the tap on and off, even when it came to the liberation tax, which does not belong to host governments, and this was resented by Palestinians and the PLO," one source said.

Iranians vote for clerical body after bitter feud

TEHRAN (R) — Iranians went to polls Monday to elect a senior clerical assembly after a bitter campaign in which hardliners accused moderate opponents of engineering their removal from power.

Voting began at 7 a.m. (0330 GMT) to elect 76 clergyman from among 100 candidates for the Experts' Assembly, which has the authority to choose and dismiss the country's supreme leader.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said voting proceeded without incident across the country, with helicopters taking ballot boxes to some areas inaccessible by road.

It was the first polling in more than a decade in some western Iranian towns captured by Iraq during the 1980-88 Gulf war but evacuated after Baghdad and Tehran made peace in August.

Moderates backing President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's policy of promoting the private sector and normalising ties with the West were certain of an almost clean sweep as most hard-line candidates were either dropped from the race or withdrew.

"This is a very important vote because it has to do with the leadership," said Ahmad Ali Jafari, a 59-year-old businessman, before casting his ballot at a mosque courtyard.

A young polling official at the mosque, where about 20 men and women were waiting their turn in a single queue, said he expected peace with Iraq and the return of more than 37,000 Gulf war prisoners to boost the turnout.

"People took this as a victory, and it will definitely have a positive effect on the election," he said, adding that Iran's victory in the Asian soccer championship in Beijing Saturday also made the people happy and was likely to boost the turnout.

Few of the voters who turned out in Tehran's warm, pleasant weather appeared to be concerned about the feud over the poll, including charges by hardliners that their candidates were unfairly excluded.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was chosen as supreme leader by the Experts' Assembly the day after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death in June last year, said enemies of Islam had blown up "fraternal disputes."

"The debate among brothers in the Islamic Republic is aimed at finding the right path," he said in a speech to Rafsanjani and other

senior officials Monday.

"In case of the slightest encroachment on the system, all would rise up hand in hand to beat back the threat and defend the Islamic system," he said, adding that the debates were natural and a sign of growth of the revolution.

Both Khamenei and Rafsanjani had earlier rejected headline criticisms of the election, saying the preparation were entirely lawful.

The main headline political group, the Militant Clergyman, did not endorse any candidates but stopped short of calling for a boycott of the polls.

One of its top leaders, Parliamentary Speaker Mehdi Karubi, voted Monday at a Tehran hospital he has been recovering for three weeks from a broken ankle and slipped discs.

Tehran Radio quoted him as urging people "to take part in the polls in closed ranks to elect their representatives."

Karubi was one of several dozen hardliners who were disqualified after they failed or refused to sit an examination to test their religious knowledge set by the Guardian Council, which oversees the elections.

The election controversy came to a head Sunday when a rare boycott, apparently by moderates, forced the cancellation of a parliament session scheduled to debate a bill proposed by hardliners to amend elections laws.

A group of deputies later wrote to Khamenei asking him to denounce a "certain faction" for the boycott, which they said could "deal heavy blows on the system."

The president of the parliament, which is dominated by hardliners, said it would announce the names of perpetrators of the boycott later.

On Saturday, a group of clergyman marched in the holy city of Qom, seat of Iran's Shi'ite Muslim clerical hierarchy, to defend the Guardian Council, the focus of the hardliners attacks.

The rejections and withdrawals left 100 approved candidates running for the 76 seats in the assembly, which sits for an eight-year term. There was no voting in three provinces with seven seats where insufficient candidates were approved.

Voting was open for 10 hours and could be extended by the interior ministry.

Kuwait airport shut to civilian traffic

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has closed Kuwait airport to civilian flights in a move that could disrupt a planned U.S. airlift of Westerners trapped since the Iraqi invasion.

A senior Iraqi Airways official told Reuters on Monday that civilian traffic had been halted "for technical reasons." He could not say when flights were stopped or when they might resume.

The U.S. government has chartered an Iraqi Airways Boeing-747 to fly Americans and possibly Britons from Kuwait City to London via Baghdad on Wednesday in the first such airlift for nearly three weeks.

A U.S. diplomat said the U.S. embassy in Baghdad had been told the airlift would have to be moved to an airport in the southern Iraqi port city of Basra.

The embassy had asked the Iraqi foreign ministry to allow the airlift to go ahead from Kuwait airport despite the closure, the diplomat said.

"We were told Kuwait airport was closed to civilian flights, but given no reason. We don't know if it's for security reasons or administrative," the diplomat said.

About 350 U.S. citizens or immediate family members, most of them women and children, but some male citizens of Arab origin, are expected to want to join Wednesday's airlift.

Britain has urged women and children among its community in Kuwait to take the flight if there are places on the 430-seat plane.

Diversion to Basra would involve a road journey from Kuwait City that normally takes two hours but could take much longer if the convoy of buses is stopped at Iraqi checkpoints.

Iraq has not allowed Westerners to leave Iraq and Kuwait and has moved more than 300 Americans, Britons, Frenchmen, Germans and Japanese to strategic sites as "human shields" against any attack by U.S.-led forces massed in the Gulf.

The Iraqi Airways official said the airline had five or six flights a day to Kuwait until its operations were suspended. Other airlines have not flown to the emirate since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion.

Wednesday's planned airlift would be the first by the United States since September 21. Hundreds of Western women and children were airlifted out on previous flights, which U.S. diplomats said all landed at Kuwait airport.

Apart from the 350 passengers from Kuwait, U.S. officials have asked the Iraqi government to allow 69 Americans to join the flight in Baghdad on humanitarian grounds, the diplomatic sources said.

Fadlallah says hostages no more linked to prisoners

LONDON (AP) — A Muslim religious leader in Lebanon was quoted Monday as saying the future of Western hostages should no longer be linked to that of Arab prisoners.

The Independent, a London daily, said the statement may signal the beginning of the end of the hostage crisis.

The hostage issue "can be settled in such a way that no party feels he has been blackmailed," the report quoted Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah as saying in an interview in West Berlin with Robert Fisk, the newspaper's correspondent.

The sheikh was described as the most important spiritual adviser to the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) militia, believed to be the umbrella group for extremists holding the hostages.

Kidnappers in Lebanon have said the hostages won't all be freed until the release of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and Muslims held in Kuwait by the Sabah government, which was ousted by the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion.

Western governments have rebuffed the demand as blackmail.

Fadlallah said he believed the 15 Muslims imprisoned in Kuwait for bombing the French and U.S. embassies there in 1983 had escaped after the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion and are no longer in Kuwait.

"We call on every side that could do something about this humanitarian issue to dissociate these two problems from each other," the sheikh said.

Reports in the Beirut press Sunday said a Western hostage might be freed this week, possibly Terry Waite, the archbishop of Canterbury's envoy held since Jan. 20, 1987.

The longest-held captive is American Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, who was seized on March 16, 1985.

More than 5,000 Kuwaitis in Iran, Tehran says

NICOSIA (R) — More than 5,000 Kuwaitis have fled their homeland to Iran over the past few days, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday.

It reported that all the refugees, who crossed into south Iran from Iraq, had refused Baghdad's demand to change their identity cards to Iraqi ones.

IRNA said 1,358 refugees in 429 cars and six minibuses had crossed at the Shalameh border post since Sunday, bringing the total number of Kuwaitis to reach Iran in the past few days to 5,297.

The IRNA report, monitored in Nicosia, follows a United Nations pledge to help Iran after Tehran said last month half a million refugees may flee through Iran.

The pledge was made in a statement issued Sunday at the end of a four-day visit to Iran by the U.N. humanitarian envoy for the Gulf crisis, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan.

The United Nations and other international organisations agreed to "increase their activities and contributions to the Islamic Republic to help it meet the urgent needs related to this human endeavour," IRNA quoted the statement as saying.

It suggested that the U.N. Disaster Relief Organisation (UN-DRO) appoint a representative to Iran and that assistance include "transit camps, sanitation and help equipment as well as transport facilities in order to ensure a speedy resettlement of those affected by the crisis."

Prince Sadruddin visited north-western border crossing with Turkey and held talks with Iranian Foreign Ministry officials.

Iran has reported few refugee arrivals since saying 90,000 entered Iran in the first month after the Iraqi invasion.

Most were Iranian residents of Kuwait who came through Shalameh, a couple of hours' drive from Kuwait.

EC undecided over how to respond if U.S. intervenes in Gulf

By Richard Wallis
Reuters

ROME — A meeting of European Community foreign ministers in Italy has highlighted the EC's dilemma over how to respond if fighting breaks out in the Gulf, diplomats said Monday.

A debate on the Gulf crisis at a weekend meeting of the 12-member group's ministers at Asolo near Venice touched on the one area where the West's largest trading bloc has so far never had a say — defence and security.

Diplomats said that with EC governments worried that Saudi Arabia and the Gulf emirates were increasingly pushing the United States to use the huge task force it has deployed, the ministers concentrated on two main points:

— How should the community respond if U.S. troops do eventually go into action against Iraqi forces?

— What should be done if Iraq takes the West by surprise and decides to pull out of occupied Kuwait?

So far, the EC has pinned all its hopes on U.N. trade sanctions to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. But at their meeting, the ministers faced the issue of what to do if sanctions failed to produce a quick result.

They agreed that it was vital that Washington's European allies should not leave the U.S. out on a limb if American forces went into battle, but were undecided over whether they yet had the authority to act, the sources said.

The question was whether explicit U.N. backing was needed for any military action against Iraq.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told reporters London felt the U.N. Charter and the Kuwaiti government's appeal for help were legally sufficient. France's Roland Dumas, however, said this was not enough for Paris.

The ministers all agreed they would much prefer U.N. endorsement before sending their troops into action, the sources

said.

The short-term time frame that worries the Europeans stretches from after the U.S. congressional elections on November 6 to Christmas.

"No one wants to have troops fighting in the Gulf when Christmas comes," said one of the EC officials at the talks.

The sources said EC ministers felt that even if Iraqi President Saddam Hussein pulled his troops out of Kuwait they would have to build a safety net around Iraq and guarantee the security of his neighbours.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez told reporters the 12 had agreed "there can be no bargaining with Saddam Hussein — on the basis of the principle that you never negotiate with terrorists."

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said it was wrong to speak of a "political solution" to the Gulf crisis since that implied negotiations and concessions, according to a spokesman.

Abu Nidal denies Egyptian charge

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The Palestinian father of Abu Nidal denied Monday that one of his members was arrested in Egypt while planning to carry out sabotage acts.

"We categorically deny that any of our members have been arrested in Egypt," said Fatah Revolutionary Council in a statement published by the Lebanese newspaper Al Safir.

It accused Egyptian authorities of releasing "misleading information."

Fatah-RC, the statement said, was "closely watching the hostile propaganda campaigns by some Egyptian media organisations against Palestinians in general, which include arrest and deportation."

The state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram said Monday that Egyptian police authorities have charged Muslim fundamentalists of collaborating with Abu Nidal's men sent to Egypt by Iraq on sabotage missions.

Sheikh Maktoum succeeds Rashid

By Eric Hall
Reuters

DUBAI — Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum became ruler of the strategic Gulf emirate of Dubai on Monday after he and his brothers buried their father, the man who turned the desert backwater into a thriving business centre.

Sheikh Maktoum inherits the title during one of the region's worst political crises and UAE officials said they expected him to underline continued stability and unity within the federation in the face of present challenges in the Gulf.

Dubai Radio said the crown prince had succeeded Sheikh Rashid Bin Said Al Maktoum, who died aged 76 on Sunday after a long illness, marking the end of an era during which he turned Dubai into one of the Middle

East's major centres of commerce.

Sheikh Maktoum, in his mid-50s, is already deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates and now joins the supreme council of rulers of the seven emirates which make up the UAE.

It was not yet clear whether Sheikh Maktoum would also take his father's other posts of prime minister and vice-president of the UAE. Dubai is the second biggest and richest emirate after neighbouring Abu Dhabi.

Since Sheikh Rashid and Abu Dhabi ruler Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan worked to create the UAE in 1971, Sheikh Zaid has been president and it has often been assumed that the next Dubai ruler would continue the status quo by inheriting the premiership and vice-presidency.

Qadhafi calls for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait

NICOSIA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has called for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait but says Arabs would then be free to oppose foreign forces in the region if they did not in turn leave.

In a televised speech to Libya's parliament, the General People's Congress Sunday, Qadhafi said that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein should withdraw his troops under the terms of a "Libyan initiative."

Qadhafi, whose speech was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), spoke of compensation for Iraqi grievances.

"Iraq would take the things that are under dispute to compensate for the losses it suffered as a result of the increase in the Kuwaiti oil production," he said. "A number of Arab oil countries have undertaken to meet this compensation."

Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2 accusing it of pumping oil from Iraqi oilfields and of waging economic war against it by producing above its OPEC quota.

"If after Iraq leaves Kuwait, the foreign forces continued to stay, then we have no alternative but to resist them. For then we would have the right to do so. This would mean an act of imperialism."

Qadhafi said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had told him they would not permit foreign forces to stay in the region once Iraq quit Kuwait.

"The Saudis have told me: 'If Iraq leaves we will ask the Americans to leave. We then must ask them to go,'" he added.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

British minister holds talks in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — British Armed Forces Minister Archie Hamilton Monday held Gulf crisis talks with the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa. The Gulf News Agency said the meeting was attended by foreign, interior and defence ministers. It gave no further details. Hamilton arrived in Bahrain from Saudi Arabia Sunday as part of a tour of British forces deployed in the Gulf region. Britain has a squadron of Tornado ground-attack fighters in Bahrain, a squadron of Jaguar JR1 planes are being moved to the island from Oman.

Shi'ites battle in South Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Rival Shi'ite militias fought with rockets and artillery in South Lebanon Monday, despite increasing political efforts to resolve their three-year-old power struggle. Security sources said at least five people were wounded when the pro-Iranian Hizbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal blasted each other's position in the strategic mountain ridge of Iqlim Al Toufah, 40 kilometres south of Beirut. Shells and rockets rained on more than 10 villages in the area starting fires and causing material damage, they added. Each side blamed the other for starting the violence. More than 1,200 people have been killed in three years of intermittent Amal-Hizbollah fighting in Beirut, its southern suburbs, eastern and southern Lebanon. Dozens of initiatives by Syria and Iran have failed to end the battles.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:55 Children programmes
16:00 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:45 Programme review
16:55 News in Arabic
17:00 Arabic series
17:10 Programme review
17:40 Local programme
17:50 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:45 Documentary
18:55 Des chiffres et de lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:40 News in Arabic
21:10 Doc "Wild South"
21:20 News in English
22:20 Murder She Write

PRAYER TIMES

04:13 Fajr
05:30 (Sunrise)
11:33 Dhuhr
14:42 Asr
17:16 Maghrib
18:33 Isha

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Tel. 810740.
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Church of the Annunciation Tel.
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811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 615817, 659322.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and windy will be northwesterly fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and winds will be northerly fresh and seas wavy.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Smadi 683266
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846070
Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamad 677436
Dr. Mohammad Ismael 653999
Ferdous pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 783336
Al Asma pharmacy 637053
Madrak pharmacy 623672
Al Sehan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 646495
Shamsan pharmacy 637660

ZARQA:

Dr. Ziad Ju'aitom (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 591228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 842402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 671467
Complaints 597467
Ammann Municipality 771111
Complaints 623101
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642616
Alkhalid Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642662
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsan 664174
Shamsan Hospital 659131
University Hospital 848445
Al-Mushar Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/31
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Islamic, Al-Masharqa 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/25
Antry, Marha 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)383323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
IBRAHIM:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)753555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)747100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15 Muscat (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
10:45 Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)
10:55 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
11:00 Cairo (RJ)
11:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)
11:00 Belgrade (RJ)
20:00 Tripoli (RJ)
21:35 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
21:45 Riyadh (SV)
22:00 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:20 Beirut (ME)
13:20 Moscow (RU)
13:25 Riyadh (SV)
17:55 Rome (AZ)
18:30 Cairo (MS)
20:10 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:15 London (RJ)
11:30 Belgrade (RJ)
11:40 Tripoli (RJ)
12:00 Vienna (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Vienna (RJ)
12:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:15 Paris (RJ)
13:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:00 Dhahran (RJ)
14:10 Belgrade (RJ)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
14:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
15:15 Larnaca (RJ)
15:25 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 Beirut (ME)
14:40 Riyadh (SV)
15:00 Moscow (SU)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apples 650 / 500
Bananas 500 / 450
Bassam (Mukammal) 450 / 400
Beans 350 / 300
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrots 250 / 200
Cauliflowers 180 / 120
Corn 240 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 100 / 50
Cucumbers (small) 170 / 120
Dates 450 / 400
Eggplants 220 / 180
Figs 400 / 300
Garlic 900 / 800
Grapes 320 / 280
Lemon 250 / 200
Mellows 120 / 80
Marrows (large) 120 / 80
Marrows (small) 220 / 180
Onion (dry) 240 / 200
Orange 550 / 500
Pears 600 / 500
Peas 240 / 200
Peppers (hot) 600 / 500
Peppers (sweet) 240 / 200
Potatoes 350 / 300
Radish 150 / 100
Sage 550 / 500
Sweet melon 240 / 200
Tomatoes 100 / 50
Watermelon 160 / 100

Energy conservation measures, long weekend adversely affect industrial sector — Abu Hassan

By Ziyad Al Shileh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan, which aims at increasing production and establishing itself as an international trading centre in the region, can by no means benefit from a series of government energy conservation measures should they be applied to the national industry, according to Mamdouh Abu Hassan, president of the Jordanian Business Association (JBA).

"It is hoped that the two-day weekend would not be applicable to the industrial and private sectors as well as banks and economic institutions in the country since such application would have

adverse effects on production," Abu Hassan said in a statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times.

"Should the measures include the private sector and the banks, Jordan would be cut off from the rest of the business circles around the world for four days: Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, because the last two days are the West's weekend," Abu Hassan said.

Abu Hassan questioned the wisdom behind ordering the stores and the business companies to close by 7 p.m. when government offices will be working an extra one and a half hours every week.

He said that many employees

in the private and public sectors would find it difficult to buy their needs from the market in the afternoon.

To help reduce fuel consumption, Abu Hassan suggested that measures be introduced by the government to encourage the use of public transport vehicles rather than depend on private cars.

The Cabinet had decided that government departments should have a two-day weekend to cut down on energy and fuel used in buildings and transport. It also decided that commercial businesses close at 7 p.m., and street lighting be switched off at 5 a.m. The measures will go into effect as of Saturday Oct. 13.



PRINCESS MARKS ARAB CHILD WEEK: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Sunday visited the Islamic Charitable Cultural Society in Zarqa and took part in a special celebration marking the Arab Child Week. The Princess opened a charity bazaar and was briefed on the activities of charitable societies in Zarqa. In yesterday's issue, the Jordan Times inadvertently mentioned that Her Royal Highness Princess Basma made the visit. The Jordan Times apologises for the error.

Prince Hassan, U.N. agencies' heads discuss emergency plan for evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday chaired a meeting held at the Royal Court to discuss a comprehensive emergency plan to solve the evacuees' crisis, repatriate them as soon as possible, improve the conditions in the evacuee camps and other related issues.

The meeting was attended by Ministry of Interior Secretary General Salameh Hammad, who is chairman of the Evacuees Welfare Committee, Director General of the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organisation (UN-DRO) Mohammad Al Saafi, the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Ali Atiq and representatives of U.N. relief organisations.

Prince Hassan lauded efforts exerted by the U.N. and other international organisations and committees, and of the international and Jordanian charitable societies, and praised the active role of volunteers from Jordan and other countries in alleviating the suffering of the evacuees.

The Prince called for more coordination among these institutions and organisations and asked them to show the whole world the burdens Jordan shoulder.

Prince Hassan also commended people working at Jordanian border posts, security departments, evacuee camps, the airports and Aqaba Port for their continued efforts in assisting the evacuees.

Prince Hassan called for extending assistance to Jordan to overcome the crisis and praised the U.N. efforts and the Jordanian generosity towards the evacuees.

Saafi, thanked His Majesty King Hussein, Prince Hassan and the Jordanian government for the continued support they extended to the U.N. organisations and agencies.

7 deputies split with the National Bloc to form the Liberals Bloc

New parliamentary group forms

By Tareq Momani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new parliamentary group came into being Monday with the creation of the Liberals' Bloc which groups seven deputies who splintered off from the National Bloc.

The birth of the new bloc was declared by the group's spokesman Deputy Mohammad Abu Alim who said that he and his colleagues would dedicate their time and effort to serve the higher national interests.

Addressing a press conference in the Parliament building Abu Alim said that the Liberals' Bloc will strive to enhance the democratisation process in Jordan, political pluralism and the sense of national belonging.

"Our group will seek to bolster democratic life in Jordan within the Arab Islamic framework, and will strive to enhance national unity and at the same time cooperate with the other parliamentary blocs in Parliament to offer the best service to the nation," Abu Alim said.

"The Liberals' Bloc considers the Palestine question as the central cause for all Arab

and Muslims and the group strongly believes in and will work for the attainment of pan-Arab unity," Abu Alim added.

He said that the bloc believed in dealing with the other nations on the basis of mutual respect and trust and would pursue all efforts to help establish justice and peace and fight tendency towards aggression.

The bloc believes in fair distribution of Arab wealth, especially oil wealth, to Arab citizens everywhere and will support any move designed to bolster this concept," Abu Alim said.

In reply to a question about the separation of the seven-member bloc from the National Bloc, Abu Alim said that the National Bloc's life was always characterised by internal feuds and divisions until things came to a head and a split was inevitable. "The seven deputies who separated from the old bloc found that they could not continue to act in a climate of divisions and disputes," Abu Alim added.

He pointed out that the Liberals' Bloc plans to nominate its candidate for the Lower House of Parliament's speakership once

Parliament's ordinary session opened Nov. 17, and added that intensive meetings would be held in the coming week to choose a candidate for the bloc.

In reply to a question about the national-Islamic bloc which is being formed among Parliament groups, Abu Alim said that his bloc would cooperate with all other blocs, but he made it clear that there was no intention of joining this alliance for the time being.

The bloc groups besides Abu Alim, Jamal Khreisha, Ahmad Innab, Saad Haddadin, Jamal Haddad, Issa Reimouni and Mohammad Muarar. Except for Muarar all the bloc's members had been affiliated to the National Bloc.

With the formation of the Liberals' Bloc, Parliament members are now grouped into five different factions or blocs: the Islamic movement (Muslim Brotherhood)—22, the Independent Islamic Bloc — 8, the Democratic Alliance — 12, the National Bloc — 16, the Liberals' Bloc — 7 in addition to 15 independent deputies who include 10 government ministers.

RSCN embarks on olive-picking campaign

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is embarking on a two-month campaign designed to help the country gather the largest possible olive harvest for this year.

RSCN Director Maher Abu Jaafar said that thousands of students from government schools would be involved in gathering the olive crop as of the middle of October, a process which in some cases could last until the end of December, depending on the area of land grown with olives.

The RSCN has already initiated its annual campaign through the media, especially Jordan Television and Radio Jordan, to provide advice to farmers on the best means of gathering the crops, the most opportune time for harvesting the olives and obtaining the largest amount of olive oil, according to Abu Jaafar.

He told the Jordan Times that the campaign was also designed to encourage farmers and ordinary citizens to grow more and more olive trees whose fruit is of high nutritional value and is in high demand in the local and Arab markets.

"At least 50,000 students of all

ages are annually involved in the process of harvesting the olives, mostly in the northern parts of the country, and the participation of students is arranged by a special RSCN committee which coordinates matters with the ministries of agriculture and education in this respect," Abu Jaafar explained.

He said that similar campaigns carried out since 1984 had yielded fruitful results and ensured sufficient hands to gather the crops.

Students taking part in the process of gathering olives, said Abu Jaafar, normally receive a reward represented in 10 per cent of the total amount of harvested olives or their equivalent of oil. The Armed Forces contribute to the process by lending the two ministries lorries to transport the students to and from the farmlands.

"Indeed through their participation, these students constitute a great help to the farmers and olive growers who are encouraged to grow more and more olive trees, thus contributing to the greening of Jordan, another RSCN's target for this decade," Abu Jaafar added.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, olive trees are now grown on 575,000 dunums of land in Jordan, but only those trees grown on 406,000 dunums yield fruit as the rest are still young.

Director of Horticulture and Nurseries Department at the Ministry of Agriculture Mahmoud Abdul Nabi told the Jordan Times that in bumper years Jordan produces up to 75,000 tonnes of olives annually, but this can drop to 20,000 tonnes in other not so successful years; the average amount of olives gathered is estimated at 45,000 tonnes annually.

Abdul Nabi said that Jordan on average produces annually around 12,000 tonnes of olive oil, a valuable food commodity for all Jordanians and most Arabs, but as this is not sufficient for the local markets, oil is imported from the West Bank, Spain and Tunisia.

He said that the ministry's nurseries produce up to 500,000 olive tree saplings annually and another 500,000 are produced by the private sector nurseries. The saplings are mostly distributed free of charge or at cost price to farmers, organisations and schools to be planted not only on Arbor Day but also through the tree planting season in winter.

According to Abdul Nabi, most olive trees are grown in Irbid, Ajloun and Jerash, all districts in the north of the country; less trees can be found in the Balqa and Amman region, and still fewer trees are found to the south of these areas.

More than 75,000 cars entered Jordan since Aug. 2

Traffic Department busy controlling flow of cars

by Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait August 2, more than 75,000 cars with non-Jordanian licence plates entered the country through the Ruweished border post, sources at the Department of Customs told the Jordan Times Monday.

"In August 37,230 cars entered the Kingdom and in September around 37,859 cars came in. These figures include transit cars, private cars, buses, trucks and lorries," Brigadier General Mohammad Al-Fareh told the Jordan Times.

He added that he did not know the exact number of cars that had left the country since the invasion of Kuwait, but assured that measures were taken to control the overflow of cars in the Kingdom.

"The Traffic Department is doing its best to contain the

massive numbers of cars entering the Kingdom by doubling the manpower and increasing police patrols," Al-Fareh said.

He also explained that due to the large and unexpected numbers of evacuees entering the country, some in their private cars, Jordan was faced with the problem of traffic congestion on the roads. "We (the Traffic Department) have helped the government transport sector by organising police escorts to the convoys carrying the evacuees," Al-Fareh said.

Asked about the accident rates in the Kingdom since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, Al-Fareh said that the accident rate had gone up "tremendously." "In September, for example, 48 people died in road accidents, 21 of whom died on the Ruweished road, and this number is high compared to previous months," Al-Fareh said.

He also added that the increase in the number of accidents was attributed to the extended working hours of many drivers. Drivers transporting evacuees work for 10 or more hours which "leaves a negative effect and increases road accidents," he said.

As for the increase of traffic in the capital, Amman, Al-Fareh said it was inevitable. "They have to pass through Amman, because many evacuee camps are located around the area; the airport is there and many cars, especially the transit ones going to Egypt, Sudan and Yemen through Aqaba, have to pass through Amman," Al-Fareh said.

Asked about his expectations for the future, Al-Fareh said he could not give a precise number of cars expected to enter the country in the future, but that "it all depends on the outcome of the Gulf crisis."

World Islamic Council to aid Jordan with the evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The World Islamic Council (WIC) is joining efforts with Jordanian voluntary and relief organisations to extend assistance to the evacuees coming to Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait, and the move has been warmly welcomed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The offer to help came from WIC's Vice President Abdul Rahman Swareddahab at a meeting held Monday with Crown Prince Hassan at the Royal Court to discuss the plight of the evacuees stranded in Jordan and the council's contributions to alleviate their suffering.

Swareddahab said that WIC was ready to contribute to ongoing efforts to help the evacuees during their stay in the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan welcomed the move and issued directives to local Jordanian relief organisations and the government Committee on Evacuees Affairs to coordinate work with WIC in their future operations.

The WIC, which strives to propagate Islam and offer relief services in the Arab World, is composed of Islamic organisations and ministries of Awqaf in the Islamic World. The WIC's operations also benefit displaced persons and refugees in the Islamic World. Swareddahab is a former head of state of Sudan.

Meanwhile the Public Security Department (PSD) announced Monday that a total of 10,358 evacuees arrived in Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait on Sunday. These included 4,343 Arab and Muslim nationals.

PSD said however that 15,390

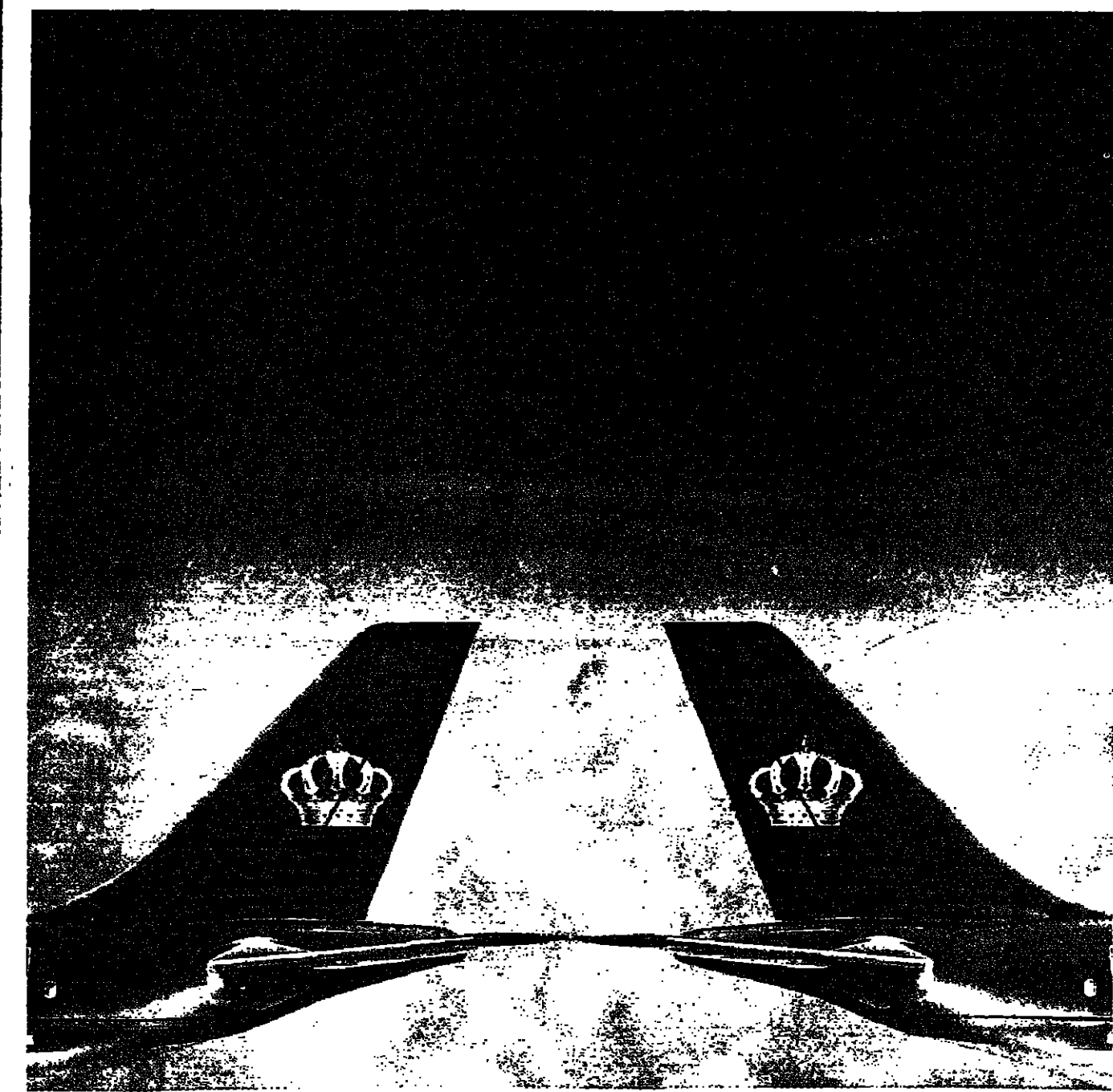
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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zarz displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- * Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.
- * Plastic art exhibition by four Palestinian artists depicting the suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation at the Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- * Exhibition entitled "Science in Profile" at the British Council.

LECTURE

- * Lecture entitled "Contemporary Residential Architecture in Jordan" by Dr. Talib Rifaat at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Asfour family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday delegated Secretary-General of the Royal Court Munir Al Durra to participate at the funeral of Jamal Asfour and convey His Majesty's condolences to the family of the deceased.

Pakistani chief of staff leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistani Chief of Staff Itikhar Ahmad Sirohi left Amman Monday after a several-day official visit to the Kingdom during which he was received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb. Sirohi also visited several military and scientific sites in the Kingdom. Sirohi and the accompanying delegation were seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by Abu Taleb, the deputy chief of staff for administrative affairs, the inspector general, the Pakistani ambassador and the Pakistani military attache in Amman.

Bani Hamida rugs exhibition opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — Save the Children Fund is holding an exhibition of Bani Hamida rugs and Jordan River designs (quilts) at the Abu-Jaber Estate at Yadoudah (adjacent to Kan Zaman) from Oct. 12 - 19 at 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

محرم تيمر يومه عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Massacre calls for response

THE LAST time Palestinians were murdered en masse in Israel, it was claimed that a deranged Israeli soldier perpetrated the massacre. This was back in May. Subsequently, and systematically, the Israelis broke bones of Palestinians, they destroyed their property, demolished their houses, closed schools, detained hundreds of them including women and children and suppressed all kinds of nationalistic feelings by the unarmed population living under occupation.

Yesterday, the Israelis officially committed another massacre against Palestinians, murdering tens of people and wounding hundreds, right on the steps of Haram Al Sharif in Jerusalem. Israeli officials, from the extremist prime minister down, contended the killings were in response to provocation by the unarmed Palestinians. They blamed the bloodshed on what they described as a premeditated effort on the part of the Arabs to deflect attention from the Gulf crisis. How clever these Israeli butchers are. Indeed, Israelis kill Palestinians in cold blood, and they blame the Arabs for their terrible actions.

But beyond the grief for those among our people who were killed and wounded at the hands of the Israelis, we have to think of the way the international community will react to the tragedy. Will the world merely condemn it, denounce it and then forget all about it? Will the U.S. veto any Security Council resolution that calls for sending international forces to protect Palestinians from Israeli bullets and repression? With the international reaction over the Israeli invasion of Kuwait — the troop build up, the sanctions and all the measures to ensure the embargo is not busted — we are anxious to see how all those countries who insist on the sanctity of international law will react to the Israeli explicit and unrestrained use of horrific violence in the holy city against Palestinian Arabs. This is the perfect timing, as sickening as it may sound, to test the credibility of the international legitimacy-loving nations, namely the U.S. It is sickening because it seems it has to take thirty of our own people to be massacred and hundreds wounded in one day to hope for a reaction close to that of the Gulf. This brings to mind the all-too-familiar contradictions and duplicity characterising the West's attitudes. British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, referring to Palestinian rights, said last week: "Today the international community is facing the challenge of whether there is one mankind or different kinds of men and women." Yesterday, however, Hurd was saying that Iraq needed to withdraw from Kuwait before his country would move to do anything for the Palestinians. We thought he was opposed to linking the Gulf crisis to the Palestinian problem. Now, it seems, he is all out for it, albeit with his priorities turned upside down. The same applies for other Westerners who are now insisting on dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis. Just why are they not demanding the same thing from themselves vis-a-vis the Iraqis? Or are we faced with the same double standards again?

This is a time for the Arabs not to get carried away by the impact of yesterday's blow, painful as it indeed is. It is a time to test the sincerity and honesty of the international community, especially the U.S.-led West, and to try the validity and applicability of the new world order that we have lately been hearing about so much. The least the U.N. can do for the suffering Palestinians now is to provide them the means with which they can protect themselves. The dispatch of neutral troops to the occupied territories for this purpose are the most urgent and needed measure by the U.N.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE eyes of the world are turned Monday evening to the U.N. Security Council which is scheduled to resume debate on the Palestine question in the light of Israel's atrocities especially those committed against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, said Al Ra'i daily Monday. The paper said that the council has another chance to do justice to the Palestinians and to take proper measures to safeguard their national interests. The debate is bound to place the United States and Britain face to face with a genuine test of the concept of the international legality and legitimacy which has been resorted to in dealing with the Gulf crisis, the paper continued. Should the Washington use the veto to kill a resolution condemning Israel's atrocities and should London follow suit, we will be justified to declare that both capitals had been exploiting the United Nations to achieve their own objectives, the paper added. It said that the international legality which allowed Washington to send troops and occupy Arab land in the Arabian peninsula is now being tested, and the world is watching to see whether the same measure and the same standards will be applied in the case of Palestine whose people are being starved, persecuted and oppressed.

Al Dustour daily described the government's austerity measures which go into effect as of Saturday as a firm response to the challenge of the consequences of the Gulf crisis. The paper said that Jordan has refused to be covered by the suspect umbrella and the unholy alliance led by the United States in the Gulf, and has thus chosen the hard path and is paying the price for such attitude. But, it said, that this stand reflects the true Arab position, defending Arab pride and dignity regardless of the circumstances and the challenges. The Jordanian people are solidly behind the government in its austerity measures designed to enable the Jordanians to rationalise consumption and to shoulder their responsibility under the present difficult circumstances, the paper noted. Jordan, it added, is now exposed to a series of harassments and is facing difficulties aimed at forcing the country to change its national position. But the paper noted the Jordanian people are steadfast, and will continue to adopt measures that would help them become self-reliant and capable of dealing with the hardships at hand.

Jordan defends peace, seeks justice

By HRH Crown Prince Hassan

The following article appeared in the Independent newspaper on Oct 6.

There are a number of misconceptions feeding largely on the reports of an idle and bored press corps based in Amman, this make it imperative to clarify some Jordanian positions and attitudes, in the hope of preserving our traditional — and highly valued — friendship with the United Kingdom.

Jordan is not an apologist for Iraq. We have made it clear to the Iraq leadership that we are against the acquisition of territory by force and that we support the restoration of the Emir of Kuwait, whose government we still recognise. We are, however, apologists for peace. We do not believe that those who clamour for war understand the devastation and suffering that it would bring, nor the deep hatred it would create.

A peaceful resolution is not a non-principled resolution. We think Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait should be unconditional, yet unconditionally

does not exclude the possibility of arrangements that could be entered into by Iraq and Kuwait after withdrawal or the possibility of judicial settlement by reference to the World Court. The United Nations Security Council's Resolution 660 condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and called for its immediate and unconditional withdrawal. With creativity, paragraph three of the same resolution — calling for Iraq and Kuwait to begin immediate and intensive negotiations to resolve their differences upon to strike a delicate balance between the need for permanent negotiations between states on the one hand and the credibility of the content of Security Council resolutions on the other.

Our position on terrorism and hostage-taking is very clear and consistent. Jordan played a pivotal role in adopting the United Nations convention against the taking of hos-

tages and we have multilaterally and bilaterally co-operated in the global fight against terrorism. We do not approve of Iraq's taking of hostages and we have exerted efforts for their release.

It is important to remember that Jordan is passing through a genuine and active democratic process. President Hussein of Iraq is very popular in Jordan — as he is throughout the Arab World. This is a limiting factor on Jordan's manoeuvrability. The application of sanctions has meant economic suicide for Jordan: the hope must be expressed that Jordan will not be asked to commit political suicide, too.

With the possible exception of Iraq itself, no country has been more hard-hit by sanctions than Jordan. Its citizens, through no fault of their own or their government, have to bear the main brunt of sanctions directed against another state. As part of a vicious circle this feeds anti-Western and anti-Gulf feelings, and in turn

produces more suspicions regarding Jordan's compliance with sanctions. If a wider perspective is not taken, Jordan could be pushed completely into Iraq's arms due to the very methods employed to "bring it to its senses."

Jordan has from the beginning agreed to abide by Resolution 661 imposing economic sanctions, and subsequent resolutions on sanctions against Iraq, and to carry them out in good faith. In some cases it even went beyond what was strictly required of it under those resolutions. It is ironic that while the potential for large-scale sanction-busting, which might take place with the acquiescence of the governments of other neighbouring countries, would go unnoticed, the shipment, for example, of powdered milk by charitable organisations in Jordan is used as "evidence" of Jordanian non-compliance with the sanctions. The only significant commodity that Jordan still imports from Iraq is

oil (for domestic consumption only). The Iraqi economy does not benefit from the importation of this oil, since it is in lieu of an outstanding debt owed by Iraq to Jordan. Moreover, without this oil there would be a blackout in the country and a complete halt to economic activity.

Similarly, a possible interpretation of Resolution 661 is that the movement of persons from Iraq and Kuwait should be stopped if there is no ancillary contract consisting, for example, of the payment for air tickets or taxi fares. Jordan is not applying this literally for humanitarian reasons. It will be remembered that more than two million third-state nationals remain in Kuwait and Iraq. The single-mindedness of applying effective sanctions has to be tempered with humanitarian considerations.

With respect to Resolution 670, imposing an air embargo, we interpret it as being cargo-oriented, but may seek clarification from the United Nations Sanctions Committee. In the meantime, passenger flights will continue to be permitted.

Without diluting the imperative need to apply Security Council resolutions pertaining to the present crisis, it is important that international law not be divorced from international justice. The implementation of Security Council resolution 242 of 1967 calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied after the 1967 conflict, of resolution 465 of 1980 demanding an end to Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories and 478 of the same year condemning legislation that declared Jerusalem the "indivisible" capital of Israel, among others is long overdue.

Jordan can and will play a role in finding a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli problem within the confines of international legitimacy. The Independent.

Palestinian frustration with West behind support for Iraq

By Ghassan Andoni

DESPITE misunderstandings, especially by Israelis, Palestinian strategy throughout the period of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has aimed to create a power base to prepare for a realistic, peaceful solution. But as the Palestinians never managed to build this base, they never managed in the past to show the positive peaceful side of their strategy clearly.

The intifada created a symbolic power-base which helped the Palestinians to go on presenting the positive, peaceful part of their strategy. Until recently, the intifada Palestinian factors: showing more trust in the goodwill of the U.S. and the West; strengthening the alliance with Egypt; and placing more faith in the possibility of creating conditions under which Israelis can

accept territorial compromises.

Unfortunately, the Palestinians' experience in the past 1,000 days of the intifada has made them less confident of the viability of this strategy. On the contrary, the shortcomings of the recent period have been as follows:

— The official Israeli policy is the most extremist ever; the overwhelming majority of Israelis are either ideological or security hawks; no sense of urgency is created among them concerning the Palestinians' continuous and unsustainable suffering.

— Soviet Jewish immigration threatens to change the geography and demography of the occupied territories for ever.

— The collapse of the low-level American-Palestinian dialogue.

— The passage of a resolu-

tion by the U.S. Congress recognising unified Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel.

— The beginning of a crisis in Egyptian-Palestinian relations.

This has resulted in a real crisis in the Palestinian community concerning intifada strategy. Most Palestinians believe now that two major factors are missing in the intifada formula: a real utilisation of Arab resources to make the Americans more serious about the Palestinian issue; and a real change in the balance of power in the region to convince the Israeli hawks of the urgency of the intifada.

FOR THE Palestinian leadership, Iraq was a good choice to identify with.

On the one hand, it is a powerful, wealthy Arab state with major influence in the Gulf area, where Western in-

terests reside. It also seeks to change the formula of interest and relations between Arabs and the West for the benefit of the Arab and Palestinians.

On the other hand, after the end of the war with Iran, Iraq joined the alliance of moderates, which included Egypt, Jordan and the PLO; presented for the first time a coalition of power, pragmatism, moderation and goodwill; and appeared to have the potential to be acceptable by everyone, including the Israelis. The result was a quick build-up of Palestinian-Israeli relations in the pre-invasion period. At the same time, Israel was working for possible Egyptian mediation between Israel and Iraq.

Out of urgency, impatience, over confidence or miscalculation, Iraq moved quickly to a military solution of its differences with Kuwait, creating a

very difficult situation for the Palestinians.

Practically, the Palestinian stand will not affect the final outcome or the path of the crisis.

But the Palestinian position has a very positive impact on the Arab masses, on the emotional and moral level.

The only national interest of the Palestinians is to prevent the occurrence of war in the region. They share the world's worry about the consequences of war. At the same time, they are practically and morally opposed to any solution aimed at the destruction of Iraq as a major power in the Middle East.

The Gulf crisis has its roots in the unsustainable, complex situation in the Middle East, with the Palestinian issue as the major unresolved problem. One can claim that the official Palestinian position is fairly

neutral and pragmatic, consistent with Palestinian national interests and commitment to a peaceful and moral two-state solution.

It calls for a negotiated solution to the crisis; for ending the military build-up in the region; for ending foreign interference and allowing for an Arab solution to the crisis; for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the right of the Kuwaiti people to self-determination. It calls for a related peaceful solution of other Middle East crises, including the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Regardless of the outcome of the crisis, it has been proved dangerous to keep gnost away from the Middle East.

The writer is a Palestinian teacher of physics at Bir Zeit University. His article appeared in the Jerusalem Post of Oct. 5, 1990.

LETTERS

Please continue good efforts

His Majesty King Hussein
Amman, Jordan

Dear King Hussein:

As you can see, your Majesty, by the enclosed letter (below) that I wrote to the editor of the Chattanooga Times newspaper, in Tennessee, and was published on September 21, 1990, that I am a father of one of the Americans stationed in Saudi Arabia (his name and title is: Cpl. John P. McInerney, 124th Mechanised Infantry Battalion).

I would like you to know how grateful I am, and how grateful many Americans are for your efforts to solve the crisis through people over satellite CNN.

You were quite correct to tell the American people that our president moved too hastily and impulsively and has placed the entire world on the brink of World War Three!

You must understand that the parasitic state of Israel is goading and encouraging our President and he lacks the fortitude to withstand their efforts. The illegal government of the state of Israel will continue to prod and encourage military action in the Middle East and the whole world is going to suffer.

Please Your Majesty, continue your efforts to solve this very serious problem through diplomatic channels. I do not want my son to die for reasons that are of no American concern — this situation in the Arab World is an Arab problem and should be solved by the Arabs not Americans or any Westerners! Best wishes to you, Your Majesty and the people of Jordan.

John W. McInerney

'Get out'

I am a very angry father. For 20 years my wife and I have worked to raise three wonderful sons. Most of those years I've had to work two jobs, sometimes 16 hours a day. I have discovered none more patriotic than I. Four years in the marines, six in the active reserves and 16 years as a police officer.

With my blessings, my son enlisted in the Army shortly after high school. He wanted time to mature, earn money for college and see more of the world. We both knew of the consequences of military service. This contrived crisis in the Middle East breaks my heart. Like sheep being led to a slaughter, my son and thousands of other Americans are about to be sacrificed.

When will American politicians learn to mind their own business? The United States is not the world's police department. Wasn't Vietnam enough? This is not a war for freedom for Americans; it's a war about to be fought for the pocket-books of oil cartels, big bankers and the goading of other countries such as the state of Israel. Israel would like nothing better than for the United States to go fight the Arabs and do its dirty work.

This Mideast crisis takes the serious problems of the United States (bank failures, recession, inflation and congressional pay hikes) off the minds of the American sheep. In God's name. Let's wake up and get out of the Mideast before it's too late.

John W. McInerney
Whitwell

Enemy on our doorstep

To the Editor:

THE West and the world powers are concerned with peace and the security of the area, they contend, at a time when all have gone mad in response to the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq, blowing up the situation to dangerous dimensions, by bringing about an unprecedented amalgam of war fleets and hundreds of thousands of soldiers into the area.

At a time like this, my call for peace is a simple one, and some might find it extremely naive: Let all foreign forces get off our backs and leave our Arab tribes, spread over the Arab World (which in modern history have been made into states of every size and form), leave us alone, leave us to solve our problems by our own simple and compassionate tribal laws and codes.

And coming to the major issue, which is the Palestinian problem: let us achieve peace, by immediately using all means to stop the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, and let us call for the return of two million Palestinians to their homes and land instead of the two million Soviet Jews who already have a home and a country.

And then we shall welcome all the millions of Jews from all over the world to make their pilgrimage to Jerusalem and to weep as they please at its walls, and then, may they leave after that, as millions of Muslims do, after their pilgrimage to Mecca.

My call for peace might be extremely naive, yet how much do we need to go to the essential elements, when issues seem to be extremely complex.

At a time like this, as we find ourselves surrounded by various destructive forces, let us support the call of parliamentarian Laith Shbeilat, to arm all citizens in fear that one day we might find ourselves defenceless, with the enemy on our door.

For we shall not be saved by faith alone.

Mona Saadi,
Amman.

The following four "letters to the editor" are reprinted from the Guardian newspaper of Oct. 6, 1990. They appeared together under the same headline, and were the only letters to the editor concerning the Gulf crisis in that issue.

Double standards in reparations

THE SUGGESTION, by George Bush and Margaret Thatcher that Iraq should pay Kuwait reparations for the damage that has occurred since the start of the Gulf crisis is a welcome move. It should be encouraged by the United Nations, as it will reduce the risk of a further escalation of tension in the region.

They are right to say one country should not be able to intervene and get away with the use of force in another country's affairs. The major flaw in their argument relates to the selective nature of their criticism. They also seem to have a collective and severe problem with amnesia.

In 1986 Nicaragua took the United States to the World Court over the damage caused by Ronald Reagan's use of force against this democratically-elected government (unlike that of Kuwait).

The U.S. was found guilty on all charges and ordered to pay \$12 billion in reparation. To date not a cent has been paid, yet that country has been brought to its knees financially, and thousands of people have been killed as a consequence of U.S. foreign policy in this and other Central American countries.

If the U.S. were to pay its debt to Nicaragua, and also pay their outstanding subscription to the U.N., they would be in a slightly better position to call on international laws to support their actions.

Let's face it, the deployment of troops in the Gulf is really concerned with self interest and world power, and not the interests of Kuwait. The Gulf crisis is about control of the world's

oil supplies. Whoever controls oil is going to be in a very powerful position.

In the longer term, this is possibly one of the few ways Mr. Bush and Mrs. Thatcher can see to putting a curb on the economic growth of Japan and a unified Germany, both of which are far more vulnerable to oil shortages than either the U.S. or Britain.

As for Saddam Hussein, he has to learn, like General Noriega in Panama, that he has to do what the U.S. says rather than do what the U.S. does!

Brian Woodward,
Rath, Avon.

YET AGAIN, we are seeing double standards on the question of Iraq. In a speech made during her visit to New York earlier this week, Mrs. Thatcher said that "Iraq should be forced to pay for the damage it has caused Kuwait, and the Iraqi troops should be forced to stand trial for any crimes committed in Kuwait."

I'll agree with that, and look forward to her support for the same principles to apply to others.

For example, will she force the United States to pay for the damage, deaths and injuries they caused to and in Grenada, Panama, Nicaragua, Vietnam (still awaiting the payment of \$3,200,000,000), and Cambodia.

Let's not forget Israel and Indonesia for their crimes and occupation still, of Palestine and East Timor.

Mrs. Thatcher's charge that the Iraqi troops should be brought to trial, is interesting, will she press for the murderers of the people of the Mai Lai village, and the Sabra, Shatila camps, to be brought to justice?

But why only the troops? What of their leaders? Step forward Nixon, Reagan, Ford, Carter, Bush.

What of the leaders of the countries that have supported the U.S., such as Shamir, Wilson (Harold, that is) and, of course, herself.

Len Aldie,
London

PRESIDENT BUSH, in his address to the United Nations, for the first time linked the Gulf conflict with other Middle East issues, thus coming as close as he could to abandoning the U.S.-inspired U.N. insistence on "unconditional" Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

The gesture is doubly welcome. Not only can the then allies' demand of "unconditional surrender" be held to have needlessly prolonged the second world war. But a comprehensive Middle East settlement is obviously preferable to a narrow, and perhaps Pyrrhic, victory by either side imposed by force.

An ill wind could thus, and perhaps only thus, blow the post-cold war world lasting good. That unnecessary (not so little) word, making agreement between the parties unconscionably difficult, should be quietly dropped from the diplomatic vocabulary.

W. Grey,
London

MRS. THATCHER has proved in her New York speech that she does not want the Gulf crisis solved diplomatically.

In 1982 when diplomacy was reaching its climax she gave the order to sink the Belgrano, with terrible consequences.

If there was a war in the Middle East does she comprehend the horrific casualties of chemical and maybe atomic warfare with thousands dead, and a region left in turmoil, and with increased terrorism throughout the world?

A just stand has been made against Iraq, but a diplomatic solution is imperative, and I am sure this will be achieved by the United Nations. But the pontifications of the prime minister will not help anyone, especially those British, American, and other nationals still in Kuwait and Iraq.

John H. Courtney,
Exeter, Devon.

Israelis kill at least 30 Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

stone for a temple. He said police had denied permission to the group to enter the area.

Gershon Salomon, head of the zealots, was quoted as saying that they did not try to lay the stone but were pelted with rocks when they marched to the Old City carrying Israeli flags.

A 14-year-old Palestinian boy who gave his name only as Safyan to the AP said he and others ran to protect the holy shrines after mosque loudspeakers warned that Jews were coming.

Khaled Shalafat, a 26-year-old Palestinian hit in the head with rubber bullets, said: "We are Muslims and we came to defend our mosque."

"I did not expect Jews to perform such terrible massacres against unarmed people," he added as he was being treated at Augusta Victoria Hospital.

The previous worst toll in the 34-month Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation was 17 killed on April 16, 1988.

Monday's shooting brought the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis in the uprising to more than 760.

The Islamic resistance movement Hamas called for a "bloody

escalation" of the uprising and called a three-day strike throughout the occupied territories from Tuesday.

Police arrested Faisal Al Hussein, a prominent Palestinian leader in the West Bank, on suspicion of inciting the protest. Israeli sources said.

Palestinian leaders repeated a call to the United Nations Security Council for protection in the occupied territories.

"We do not understand how the Security Council can ignore our plea for protection when it is prepared to send troops to fight a war in the Gulf," the leaders said in a statement.

There were anguished, chaotic scenes outside the hospitals as victims poured in and relatives hunted for loved ones. The discrepancy between the Arab and Israeli casualty counts could not immediately be explained.

Police said 120 Palestinians were arrested, including Faisal Hussein.

Atop the Haram Al Sharif complex, Mufti Sheikh Jamal Al-Najjar pointed to pools of blood and told an American reporter: "Your country is giving the Israelis bullets. In 1967, there was no shooting like today. This is a holy mosque, and you tell me,

why are the soldiers here?"

Salomon, head of the faithful, told Reuters: "The occupation of the Temple Mount by Arabs must be finished."

He denied he had provoked the Arabs and said he planned further attempts to lay a foundation stone.

Ambulances screamed into Mokassed Hospital on the Mount of Olives bringing Arab youths on bloodstained stretchers after the shooting. About 500 Arab youths gathered in the hospital courtyard shouting slogans. They were surrounded by paramilitary police with dogs.

"The emergency room is full. Some of them are in serious condition and more ambulances are arriving all the time," a doctor said.

Adnan Hamad, administration director of Mokassed, said 13 dead were brought there. He said another 70 were injured with plastic and live ammunition, and added: "It's manslaughter."

Amin Madjaj, medical director of the nearby Augusta Victoria Hospital, said he received nine dead. Officials said 80 Palestinians were brought to the hospital wounded by rubber bullets or live ammunition.

U.N. debates massacre

(Continued from page 1)

(but) it does not mean the opening of a second front."

"It can only confirm my view that we simply must find a way that will allow dialogue to triumph over violence."

The U.N. Security Council convened Monday to condemn the Jerusalem massacre.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was to ask the council to condemn Israel and a proposed resolution would condemn Israel "for the criminal act committed."

A proposed resolution also would establish a three-member commission from the council to undertake a fact-finding mission on the situation in Jerusalem and the occupied territories.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickens told reporters on entering the council chamber that the government condemns the use of live fire and calls for restraint. He said extremists on both sides are trying to inflame the situation in Jerusalem.

Pickens, a former ambassador to Israel, said Israeli authorities need to be better prepared to handle "security" situations. The State Department also has issued a statement deploring the loss of life.

But it was not known how the United States, Israel's strongest ally, would vote on the proposed resolution.

PLO Ambassador Zuhdi Labib told reporters there was an Israeli plan to take over the Haram Al Sharif complex.

The Security Council also was to continue debate on the occupied territories. Palestinians, Arabs and some other diplomats argued that the council is being distracted by the Gulf crisis from what they called the root problem in the region - Israeli occupation of Arab territory.

Earlier Monday, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed "grave concern" over the incident and said Israeli authorities may have used excessive force against the Palestinians.

The U.N. chief said the clash was a "tragic illustration" of the dangers posed by the Israeli-Palestinian stalemate.

A statement issued by his office said: "Today's incidents are a tragic illustration of the dangers inherent in the stalemate that has for far too long characterised the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said the massacre was tragic and he called for a settlement of what he termed a "poisonous dispute."

"There is a poisonous dispute capable of erupting, as we've just seen, and we have to go back to it and our best - not just Britain but as an international community... to try with Israel, with the Palestinians, to try another attempt at getting a settlement," Hurd said.

He told Channel Four television the Gulf crisis was an obstacle to the Middle East peace process.

"I think it's only when the aggressor is out of Kuwait that it's going to

be practicable to try again to reconcile the security of Israel, to which they are entitled, with the rights of the Palestinians, which are at the moment suppressed," Hurd, who will visit Israel and Egypt next week, said.

If Iraq left Kuwait it would provide a "moment of opportunity" to reach a settlement.

The Foreign Office issued a statement Monday saying it was shocked at the extent of the Jerusalem violence and urged an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

"We appeal to the Israeli authorities and to the Palestinian leaders to do all that they can to restore calm in this highly volatile situation," the statement said.

"This dreadful incident demonstrates yet again the need for Israelis and Palestinians to begin the dialogue which is the essential first step for the negotiation of peace and security in the region," it added.

Italy's Communist Party leader urged the United Nations to intervene after the massacre.

"At this point the intervention of the U.N. is necessary," Achille Occhetto said.

"One cannot avoid the suspicion that the massacre was planned jointly by the most ultra-right groups of the (Jewish) right and in the Israeli army," he told reporters.

The incident could have been designed to "close all the doors to a political solution of the (Gulf) crisis," he said.

"As long as the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people are not satisfied, there will be no peace, stability and cooperation in the Middle East, which will continue to be a powder keg," Occhetto said.

Iraq's ruling party threatened retaliation for the massacre and predicted it would lead Arabs to "the liberation of Jerusalem and all other holy places."

The latter referred to Saudi Arabia, which Iraq has condemned for allowing foreign military forces on its soil. Many Muslims say that is a desecration of Islam's holiest shrines at Mecca and Medina.

"This vicious crime will not go without retaliation, and the Arab Nation is certainly capable to retaliate and it will," said Al Thawra, the newspaper of the Arab Baath Socialist Party in Baghdad.

In an editorial for Tuesday's paper, obtained by the Associated Press Monday, Al Thawra described the killing as "a massacre which has been made possible with American aid and support to Israel."

"What happened in occupied Palestine is a crime... and will cause a worldwide indignation in the Arab and Islamic world," the newspaper said.

"It would not have been possible without the support of the American imperialism, which provides the Zionist entity with all necessary weapons and political protection."

"It will turn into a massive wave of indignation, which will take the pan-Arab struggle into a step towards the liberation of Jerusalem and all other holy places and claim the Arab Homeland from treachery and occupation," the editorial said.

Iraqi ship intercepted in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

unaggressive and unthreatening way as possible."

Later, royal marines from the frigate HMS Brazen, also from a Lynx helicopter, onto the Tadmur off the Omani coast, searched the tanker and diverted it to a nearby port for further investigations with the marines still aboard, the Defence Ministry said.

No shots were reported in that incident, which also involved the destroyer USS Goldsborough and the Australian frigate AHMS Darwin, the Defence Ministry said.

There have been five cases of warning shots being fired, so far carried out by the U.S. navy. An Australian warship assisted in one incident and a Spanish vessel

another time, intercepting the Tadmur after it left the Gulf of Aden and finding it empty.

Reporting on the Al Wasiti incident, the Iraqi News Agency said "an Iraqi ship has been exposed to harassment."

"The Iraqi ship Al Wasiti continued her ordinary sailing towards her destination heedless of the harassments and attacks practiced by the new sea pirates," the news agency said.

Vice Admiral Henry H. Mauz, overall commander of U.S. naval forces in the region, said that as of Monday 2,061 ships had been intercepted since the Aug. 12 embargo began.

Of the ships intercepted, 207 were boarded and searched for prohibited Iraq-bound cargo, up by 37 above the figure four days ago.

Arabiyat advises Jordanians to reach food self-sufficiency

By Maha Addasi

AMMAN — Minister of Agriculture Dr. Saleman Arabiyat said Monday that Jordan could increase its production of wheat by cutting down the area cultivated with tobacco and growing seed crops instead.

In a lecture entitled "Jordanian Agriculture in Emergencies," delivered to audience of faculty members and students at the University of Jordan, Arabiyat mentioned the steps that should be taken by Jordan to ensure the availability of food for Jordan's population at all times.

"In trying times like these, Jordan must turn to ensuring the availability of its own food needs, mostly 'Seed crops which are the major staple consumed,'" Arabiyat said.

Jordan consumes 500,000

tonnes of wheat annually, but produces only 75,000 tonnes, according to the minister.

"Our main purpose is to make use of as much land as possible to grow seed crops," Arabiyat said. He added that farmers could cultivate government owned farmland paying symbolic fees.

"The fee to use government land is 50 fils per dunum for unirrigated land," and 500 fils per dunum for irrigated land," Arabiyat said.

The limited amount of water is a major concern to farmers, Arabiyat said, but "farmers have to work out this problem one way or another."

"A farmer could use drip irrigation, for example, to have water," Arabiyat asserted.

According to Arabiyat, the availability of equipment for cultivation is another major

concern, but he says that a substantial amount of equipment is available at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Arabiyat also said that out of all farm animals cows should be given priority in feeding in case of food shortages.

"In case of food shortages for farm animals," fodder should be given to cows.

The number of other farm animals should be reduced, Arabiyat said. "This could be done, as in the case of chickens, by slaughtering them or by selling them to family owned poultry businesses."

According to Arabiyat, families in urban areas will be encouraged to keep farm animals. "The restrictions of keeping farm animals will be reduced," Arabiyat said. "But these animals must meet certain health requirements."

Jordan urges protection

(Continued from page 1)

The spokesman said the Jordanian government had instructed its U.N. ambassador to take up the matter with the world body.

Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar and Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddine in statements to the Jordan Television, condemned the Israeli actions and called on the Arab and Islamic nations to unite in the face of the common danger.

"The event in Jerusalem shows that as the American-led forces in the Gulf are stepping up their threats and preparing for war, their Israeli allies are pursuing the atrocities against the Arab population in Palestine," Arar said.

"There is a clear linkage between the two areas since there is a common goal for the U.S. and Israel," he said.

Arar said that the Arabs should unite their ranks and depend on themselves and not on the foreign forces, "especially the United States which has been providing assistance and military aid to Israel to pursue its designs in Palestine."

Izzeddine, who is also acting foreign minister, said the Jordanian government was deeply concerned over the massacre in Jerusalem.

"The event is a repetition of Israel's acts of atrocities over the years," Izzeddine said. "The Jordanian government is determined to put the Palestine question before the international community so as to underline the fact that the Palestinian people are struggling for freedom," he said.

A senior Palestinian official in Amman said that "the consequences of the new massacre in Arab Jerusalem are bound to reverberate throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds, especially those Arab and Islamic countries which have sent troops to join the American-led invasion forces in the Gulf region."

Mohammad Milhem, member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said in a statement to the Jordan Times that

"the new massacre underlines the importance of linking the Gulf crisis with the Palestine problem as proposed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in his Aug. 12 initiative since the crux of all problems in the Middle East stem from the Palestine issue."

"The new confrontation between the Palestinians and Israeli forces refutes Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens' claim that the uprising was fizzling out," Milhem said. "The new development points to the fact that the intifada has now entered a new phase of action."

Another PLO Executive Committee member, Bishop Elias Khouri, said that the "crime was committed as the world's eyes are directed towards the Gulf region."

"Israel has seized the opportunity to carry out its atrocities in the occupied Arab lands," Bishop Khouri told the Jordan Times.

"The Arabs and Muslims," he added, "are going through a crucial test and their religion demands from them to launch a holy war as waged for salvation." But, he said, "a determined step should first be taken to unite ranks and end differences among the Muslim people."

The National Bloc at the Lower House of Parliament issued a statement calling on the Arab and Islamic masses to prepare for a "final battle against the Zionist onslaught." The Jerusalem massacre, the statement said, should serve as a "real test for those Arab leaders who have sent forces to the Gulf, away from the real battle with the Israeli enemy."

Jerusalem Mayor Roubi Al-Khatib appealed to Arab Muslim leaders to end their disputes and to unify their efforts to counter Israeli challenges.

"The Jerusalem massacre is an episode of a long series of crimes committed by radical, racist Jewish groups which attempt to break into the Al Aqsa Mosque," he said. He said he expected a clash between those groups and the Arabs who vowed to sacrifice their lives to defend the holy shrines.

Crown Prince pays tribute to Japan

(Continued from page 1)

Later Prince Hassan spoke to Turkish Television. Answering questions, he explained Jordan's position vis-a-vis the situation in the Gulf, and sanctions against Iraq.

"I believe that the diplomatic traffic has been through Amman," he said and referred to the recent visit of Soviet envoy Yegor Primakov. The visit "was important in terms of the statement that we have heard from the Soviet Union that the Soviet Union has deep concern over the possibility of war and the question of imminence of war and indeed it is terribly important. As President Mitterrand's statement in the U.N. General Assembly pointed out, the hub of this issue... is the withdrawal from Kuwait over which the international community and my country is agreed," the Crown Prince said.

"However, I think our hope is effectively that a process can be engaged whereby the Security Council resolution affects the forces that withdraw and at the same time emphasises paragraph three of Resolution 663 which refers clearly to an Arab input. My feeling, as a result of these contacts, is that there is a deep concern over the possibilities of devastating war. Of course, if military option continues, our hopes are that peace will have a chance."

Jordan is "in for full conformity with the sanctions" against Iraq, he said. "We have two Security Council notes which have unanimously carried by all the council members commending

ing Jordan for implementing sanctions. The Security Council notes also refer to the critical situation over the petroleum and oil derivatives.

"You know that our sole source is Iraq and that is oil trucked by land and clearly as we are cut off from Saudi Arabia... Jordan has no other source except Iraq for energy and that would clearly mean that in a full stoppage there will be a total blackout. Even drinking water will be impossible. So in terms of sanctions there is full conformity with the sanctions."

"I think that we have been pressured by many who pass questions like why you don't join the team? Why do you not join the multinational force and that of course is another issue which we addressed very clearly. It is Jordan's role and hope and position in this crisis that the international legitimacy will apply and clearly Jordan cannot be punished by sanctions for a situation that is essentially a Gulf crisis. Fifty per cent of our GNP is gone as a result of these sanctions. It is an organic relationship between us, Kuwait and Iraq and we have to work very hard to reverse."

"We are importing oil from Iraq in return for debts Iraq owed to Jordan. It is oil that provides energy to light Jordanian houses, to make drinking water available (and) to power light industries."

If that were to stop there will be a total blackout of Jordan and it is not Jordan after all that annexed Kuwait."

Crown Prince condemns

(Continued from page 1)

how they see it. The difficulty I've had for the last several weeks is to try and convince our Western interlocutors that there is a difference between taking measures which are in conformity with international legitimacy to restore the sovereignty of Kuwait and indeed to reverse the annexation of Kuwait and between trying to explain these actions in terms which are clearly understood by public perception in the region.

"There is a tremendous credibility gap between international perceptions of what is good for the security of the region and the regional realities here."

"I cannot understand why this provocative act is taking place now. I know this act doesn't represent the feelings of all Jews. I'm afraid here as I believe many thoughtful people should be thinking is that we are heading towards a polarisation of Muslim-Christian-Jewish confrontation. Could this act be a diversion from the Gulf crisis? Does that diversion mean that the 'Israelis' or some Israeli hawks think that on the eve of the visit of European foreign ministers to the area that they can show that the subject of security in Israel is still of paramount significance and Arabs are unreasonable. The fact remains that a violent Israeli reaction has taken place to a provocative action (by the Jewish extremists). I believe what happened was a spontaneous outburst of rage over a feeling of deeply engrained injustice felt by the Palestinians."

Abram said the fundamentalists provided weapons and explosives to five Palestinians of Abu Nidal's organisation for sabotage operations in tourist attractions like the Pyramids area, south Sinai and the Red Sea as well as crowded places like Cairo's main squares.

In a statement issued in Beirut, Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council denied the report.

Westerners free to leave

(Continued from page 1)

216 before the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, the daily newspaper Izvestia said.

An airliner brought 128 Soviet oil workers back to Moscow after Iraq promised a large number of Soviet citizens would be allowed to go home soon.

Izvestia said 5,000 Soviet citizens remained in Iraq, most of

them oil workers, and many wanted to come home but could not do so. It did not say what obstacles they faced.

Police authorities have charged Egyptian Muslim fundamentalists with collaborating with Palestinians sent to the country by Iraq on sabotage missions, a report said Monday.

The state-owned newspaper Al

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Sterling jumps for joy at being tied to Europe's currency grid

LONDON (R) — The pound sterling surged Monday when it finally entered the European currency grid after 11 years of resistance by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to yielding government over the currency.

It rose as high as 3.05 Deutsche marks in a spectacular rally that has taken it up by 10 pence since Friday, when news broke that Britain, from Monday morning, would join the 12-nation European Community's exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

Hot money flowed in, attracted by high British interest rates and confidence that the ERM, linking the pound with the mighty German currency, means there can be no sudden new sterling slide. Buy fever gripped the stock market too.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares leaped ahead, cheered further by a cut in base interest rates to 14 per cent from 15 per cent. But profit-taking later pulled it back.

But economists still saw pain ahead for Britain in its struggle to get its 10.6 per cent inflation under control.

The tabloid Daily Mail said the nation was behaving "like the young recruit whose spirits lift when he is accepted on a command course... but who has yet to meet his sergeant major."

The Mail said the "four custodians of financial orthodoxy" at the Bundesbank (central bank) would not look kindly on a new consumer boom in Britain before inflation was curbed.

Professor Alan Budd, an economist with Barclays Bank, said the big test would be whether industry realised that it could no longer count on a weaker pound to make exports competitive if it failed to resist excessive trade union wage demands.

Dealers said economic history was made when trading screens flashed the "Go" signal.

This took the form of an announcement at 0800 GMT by the Bank of England of the rates at which sterling — the world number one currency in Britain's imperial heyday — is aligned to the mark. It is set at 2.95 marks and may fluctuate in a band between 2.7780 and 3.1320.

After rising just above 3.05 marks the pound eased Monday to around 3.03. That was well within its limits. But some analysts thought it might go higher during the week.

ERM rules say central banks must act if currencies in the grid stray from their assigned bands in the European float, a mechanism evolved in 1979 to promote monetary stability and so help to expand trade and beat inflation in the EC.

ERM entry made it possible for Thatcher to make the one percentage point cut in interest rates.

A euphoric stock market opened Monday some 240 points or 11 per cent above where it had

been late Friday when the news broke that Britain would enter the ERM.

But it eased later. The Financial Times/Stock Exchange index of 100 top shares stood in early afternoon around 2,215 or up 170 from late Friday.

Critics alleged at the weekend that Thatcher overcame her reluctance about ERM entry for electoral reasons.

Her Conservatives trail Labour Party opponents in the opinion polls and a general election must be held by mid-1992.

The Conservatives start their annual party conference Tuesday amid speculation that Thatcher could go for a snap election to try for a fourth term in office as early as next June, if the economy picks up.

"Sterling entry is a gamble which undoubtedly has been taken for political purposes," said Bill Martin, an economist at finance house UBS-Phillips and Drew.

Eurotunnel secures financing

LONDON (AP) — Eurotunnel PLC, the Anglo-French consortium building the rail tunnel under the English Channel, has reached an agreement with its banks on £1.8 billion (\$3.5 billion) in new credit, the company said Monday.

The lead banks are National Westminster PLC, Banque Nationale de Paris, Credit Lyonnais and Midland Bank PLC. Eurotunnel said they had secured a further £300 million (\$591 million) from the European Investment Bank.

The 50-kilometre tunnel is scheduled to open in mid-1993. The company said a £530 million (\$1.04 billion) share sale would be held in November and shareholders can apply for a prospectus as of Tuesday. Shareholders already have bought £1 billion (\$1.97 billion) worth of Eurotunnel stock.

Algeria seeks foreign help to shift to market economy

ALGIERS (R) — Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, determined to shift Algeria to market economy by the end of the year, has appealed for foreign financial help to ease the transition from two decades of central planning.

In an interview with Reuters, he attacked hardline critics of his economic reforms in the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) and said they should accept change or leave the party.

"The government is determined to bring the reforms to fruition until its last day in office," he said.

He repeated vows to complete Algeria's shift to a market economy by year end, despite growing opposition from trade unions, public sector employees and the FLN old guard.

"All state firms will enter a market economy from January. This decision will be accompanied

by a number of measures of support from the state," Hamrouche said.

He urged foreign lenders and investors to be more forthcoming. Foreign bankers were dragging their feet over a proposed package to refinance between \$1 and \$2 billion of the \$24 billion foreign debt, he said.

"We have not found the urgency and comprehension we had wished from our foreign partners," he said. "If they want Algeria to remain a stable country, open to the world but retaining its differences, its culture, now is the time for them to come because afterwards it may be too late."

More than 30 central committee members including prominent ex-ministers and party leaders last week repudiated Hamrouche's programme, which they say will undermine the public sector and throw thousands out of work.

Lunched by President Chadli Benjedid in the mid-1980s, the reforms have freed state enterprises from central planning, lifted price controls and abolished trading monopolies. Foreign multinationals have new freedom to invest and sell goods.

Hamrouche said the changes threatened the personal economic interests of some people who enriched themselves under the old system of state trading monopolies.

His government enjoyed wide support from farmers, unemployed youth, public sector managers and the FLN rank and file, he said. "I am not isolated."

But he said he needed to give citizens tangible proof in the coming months the country was emerging from economic crisis, and this depended to a large extent on foreign aid.

Budget showdown between White House, Congress may end soon

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives moved Monday to end a deadlock with President George Bush over the federal budget by approving a revised deficit-cutting bill and sending it to the Senate for approval.

But the key to resolving the impasse still lay with Bush. He must decide whether he will approve a separate stopgap spending bill that would allow the federal government to reopen Tuesday and prevent disruption of most federal services.

The deficit has helped make the United States the world's largest debtor nation and forced the government to become increasingly dependent on foreign money. The shortfall also has acted as a drag on the U.S.

economy by helping force up interest rates.

After an angry debate that split House Republicans, the Democratic-controlled House pushed through a five-year, \$500 billion deficit reduction plan early Monday that would cut spending and raise taxes.

The measure cuts \$40 billion in the present fiscal year and would also give congressional committees more flexibility to make decisions that the plan they threw out Friday.

It makes a smaller cut in federal medical care for the elderly, taking about \$40 billion to \$50 billion from the medicare programme rather than \$60 billion. It also gives tax-writing congressional committees latitude to set tax increases rather than a man-

dated hike in taxes on gasoline, alcohol and luxury goods.

The Senate was expected to pass the revised budget Monday. The stopgap spending measure would then go to Bush for his approval.

Bush vetoed a temporary spending bill Saturday, putting pressure on Congress to pass a deficit reduction package. He vowed to veto any other temporary bill unless Congress came up with a satisfactory budget.

His Saturday veto forced the closedown of non-essential federal services.

The temporary spending bill approved by the House would allow the Treasury to resume auctions of bills and notes and forestall the possibility of the first default on federal debt payments.

Germany repatriates thousands of foreign workers

BERLIN (Agencies) — The new united Germany is using every available plane to send home Third World workers hired by the east's former communist leaders, officials said Monday.

More than 2,000 unwanted Mozambican and Vietnamese workers are returning home every week on charter planes from Berlin's Schoenefeld Airport.

"We just haven't got enough planes to cope and are looking for more," said Manfred Knack, head of charter sales at Interflug, the flag carrier of the former East Germany.

Around 85,000 workers came to East Germany from socialist Third World countries under bilateral accords.

Germany, which unified Oct. 3, has ended the agreements, leaving it up to individual companies how long they want to keep on foreign workers.

Vietnamese and Mozambicans have been among the first to lose their jobs as inefficient companies in the east cut back work forces to survive.

Repatriation started in August. More than 10,000 have left already and tens of thousands more are expected to follow.

Germany is offering 3,000 marks (\$2,000) and a flight home to foreign workers, many of whom have suffered racial attacks as scapegoats for East Germany's economic collapse.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl Monday convened a summit of the nation's most powerful business leaders to issue a personal appeal for quick help in rebuilding former East Germany.

"I have a completely personal request to make of you," Kohl told the VIP visitors he invited to the chancellery.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Monday, October 8, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	651.0	655.0	499.3
Pound Sterling	1285.6	1291.3	374.9
Deutsche mark	42.4	43.9	114.9
Swiss franc	504.3	507.3	56.4
French franc	126.0	126.8	204.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.9750/60	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1525/35	Canadian dollar	
	1.5360/65	Deutsche marks	
	1.7330/40	Dutch guilders	
	1.2865/75	Swiss francs	
	31.59/64	Belgian francs	
	5.1460/1510	French francs	
	1151/1152	Italian lire	
	130.70/80	Japanese yen	
	5.6500/50	Swedish crowns	
	5.9350/9400	Norwegian crowns	
	5.8825/75	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	392.00/50	U.S. dollars	

Number of female-owned businesses in U.S. rise

WASHINGTON (R) — The number of U.S. businesses owned by women jumped by 57 per cent between 1982 and 1987, the U.S. Census Bureau has said in a report.

The bureau said American women owned 4.1 million firms in 1987 — the most recent year for which statistics were available — or 30 per cent of all businesses in the U.S., up from 2.6 million in 1982.

"These numbers confirm that women-owned companies are the fastest growing sector in our economy," said Susan Engelsteiner, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. The number of new female-owned enterprises grew four times faster than the overall rate of business creations in the United States. From 1982 to 1987 the total number of new businesses rose by 14 per cent.

France offers to help Soviets pay for wheat

PARIS (R) — France has offered to help the Soviet Union pay for much-needed wheat imports, raising the stakes in a global battle for the vast Soviet market, French officials said Monday.

In meetings here last week, France offered to guarantee bank credits that would help Moscow buy French wheat in exchange for a commitment that Soviet wheat purchases would not fall below a certain level, which officials would not disclose.

But Soviet officials rejected the offer, in part because it included a requirement to buy meat and milk, which are covered in a separate Soviet accord with Germany, the officials said.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said Paris made the offer in talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Gaihar Rakhimbayev. The two sides were expected to resume the talks later this month in Moscow, they said.

"We were ready to offer them credit but certain conditions were attached to it," one French official said.

In the past Moscow has paid cash for French cereals. The unprecedented credit guarantee offer was expected to intensify the battle for the Soviet market

between wheat exporters such as France, the United States, Australia and Canada.

Moscow imported 38 million tonnes of grain during the year ending last June 30, including 14 million tonnes of wheat, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department. France sold the Soviets about two million tonnes of wheat, according to French estimates.

Although the Soviet grain harvest may reach record levels this year, it is still expected to buy about 30 million tonnes of grain from overseas suppliers, according to the U.S. agency. Much Soviet grain is damaged getting to the markets.

Grain trade sources said Canada last week sold about five million tonnes of wheat and barley to the Soviet Union in a deal that was sweetened with credit.

Sixteen major U.S. farm and commodities groups Friday urged President George Bush to move quickly to grant guaranteed farm credits to Moscow, saying American sales were threatened by foreign competition.

But Bush has said Moscow will not be eligible for U.S. credit until it approves a law easing curbs on emigration.

their feelings," tourism director Mohammed Ali Said told the Associated Press.

Hoteliers are grateful for the refugee and military business, but admit to a bleak outlook for the October-March high season.

That's when Oman's winter sunshine, unspoiled beaches and five-star hotels have been attracting an increasing number of wealthy visitors.

Oman had just started to exploit its tourist potential, albeit under carefully drawn up behavior and dress codes in this strictly Muslim state.

After climbing out of more than a century of political and social stagnation, Oman's attempts to pull in tourist foreign exchange to offset depressed oil prices were just beginning to bear fruit.

Only 900 carefully selected tourists were allowed into the country in 1987 when the forbidden city of Muscat first opened its gates to foreigners.

Since then, the number of tourists has risen steadily each year, and 4,000 were expected this winter from the United States, Western Europe, Australia and Japan.

Since Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Oman's ruler, ousted his backward-looking father 1970, Oman has embarked on an economic and social development programme which has changed the face of the country.

The sultan's late father, the eccentric Said Bin Taimur, had sought to keep this nation of 1.5 million on the southeastern rim of the Arabian Peninsula as isolated as possible from the modern world.

Sultan Said banned medicines, foreign music, books and even radios. He believed education

would only lead to instability.

His Western-educated son's ascent to the throne, widely believed to have been engineered by the British, combined with the oil boom of the 1970's, changed all that.

As part of his long-term economic planning, Qaboos has tried to broaden the nation's economic base with ventures like tourism.

But for now, the bulk of the sultan's foreign visitors are swathed in Arab robe and head-dress — or freshly laundered battle dress.

Kuwaiti businessmen haggle across bank counters in their gold-embroidered camel hair cloaks.

Their wives and children linger beside temperature-controlled swimming pools and stroll along extravagant cafe boulevards contrived for Western tastes.

As nationals of the Gulf Cooperation Council states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Kuwaitis can enter the sultanate without visas.

A few thousand have made Oman their temporary home since Saddam Hussein's invasion.

Like the American, British, Australian and French troops who drop in to Muscat for rest and recreation, the displaced Kuwaitis are indulged by hovering Asian waiters, Italian harpists and French chefs presenting haute cuisine around the clock.

All was originally meant for the absent tourists.

"I don't blame anyone at all for not wanting to come here. It's just out of the question," said the Holiday Inn's Hazzan.

"If I wanted a holiday, I certainly wouldn't take my wife and small children to the Middle East."

Yamani says oil should be \$15-18 once crisis is over

LONDON (R) — Former Saudi Arabian oil minister, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, said Monday that a reasonable price for oil once the Gulf crisis was settled would be \$15 to \$18 a barrel — half of today's price.

"Probably a price of \$15 might not be bad in light of the drop in demand caused by the high price now," Yamani told delegates attending a conference organised by the Centre for Global Energy Studies, which was set up by the former minister.

"Eighteen dollars is the maximum price producers should charge for a barrel of oil," he said, but added that they should be flexible to adjust it slightly later.

Yamani lost his job as the kingdom's oil minister in 1986. He helped OPEC pursue a high

production policy which resulted in prices crashing to around \$10.

Last week Yamani forecast oil prices shooting up to between \$60 and \$100 if war broke out in the Gulf.

By mid-afternoon Monday the price for the benchmark North Sea Brent blend crude oil on the International Petroleum Exchange was \$37.15 a barrel.

The European spot market price for cargoes for delivery in the next two weeks stood at \$38.40, down 65 cents from Friday's close in the U.S.

Yamani said that the 10-year highs in prices were unwarranted. Efforts by other producers to make up for embargoed Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude had left supplies to the market only two per cent down on pre-invasion levels, he said.

White S. Africans demand scrapping land reform

PRETORIA (R) — Angry white South African farmers demanded President F.W. de Klerk drop plans to scrap race laws governing land ownership, widely regarded as pillars of white supremacy.

At a protest meeting in the city hall, many said they were not in principle against having black neighbours but that experience elsewhere in Africa had shown blacks were not capable of cultivating land productively and would waste it.

"This is not a plea for apartheid, it's more of a plea to let people be humans with enough food to eat," T.C.J. "Boet" von Rensburg, a cattle, sheep and maize farmer, told reporters.

"We should stop this African tendency of giving people access to ground which could be productive and after that it is not productive," he said.

John Cameron, who farms 7,400 acres of beef and maize, said whites fear blacks will move to good "white" land in great numbers, be unable to grow enough for themselves and start stealing from their productive neighbours.

About 400 farmers from the Transvaal, mainly Afrikaners, came to express outrage to de Klerk's plan to scrap next year the 1913 and 1936 land acts which reserve more than 80 per cent of land for whites, outnumbered 5-1 by blacks.

It is one of the most far-reaching moves of de Klerk's reform programme. It would end the partitioning of the country into white and black regions, with blacks in poorer parts.

The land proposal has also drawn fire from Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), the main black opposition group, for provisions giving security to whites already holding land titles.

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American doctors win Nobel Medicine Prize

be cured. The field was open for transplantation of other organs, such as liver, pancreas and heart.

"Thomas was successful in transplanting bone marrow cells from one individual to another," said the assembly. "Bone marrow transplantation can cure severe inherited disorders such as thalassemia and disorders of the im-

Murray received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in Boston.

Thomas received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Texas in Austin and his medical degree from Harvard.

the first to successfully transplant one kidney from one identical twin to another. He showed later that this procedure could be done also between individuals who were not genetically identical. Since his first operations, the

"Tens of thousands of kidney transplants are performed in

Seoul opposition leader begins hunger strike

on prominent South Koreans.

The scandal has diminished the credibility of Roh's government which has basked in the afterglow of diplomatic success and of renewed contacts with arch-foe North Korea.

North and South Korean officials met Monday to discuss a soccer match between the two Koreas Thursday in Pyongyang. Another match is scheduled in Seoul for Oct. 22.

De Klerk and government officials have denied the charge.

"There's a lot happening," a Western diplomat commented about North-South relations. "I'm not wildly optimistic about next week but there are signs that maybe the North is starting to be

Kim's hunger strike was a bid to reclaim the attention of a South Korean electorate distracted by increased North-South contacts, by newly forged relations with the Soviet Union, and increasingly repelled by political

Indian town

of the U.N. Security Council — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States — agreed to a new peace plan for Cambodia in late August. But talks on the plan among the Cambodian factions broke

After the failure of the Bangkok talks, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan said the next talks should be held on the Khmer Rouge-controlled Khlen Monien north of Siem Reap.

Meanwhile South East Asian foreign ministers agreed Sunday to step up pressure on Cambodian guerrillas and the Vietnamese-backed government

Several ministers, attending a special two-day meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in

"Everyone should try to per-

suade or convince them," said Indonesia's Foreign Minister Aly Alatas. "There will be an increase in economic exchanges and political relationships between Vietnam and the ASEAN."

A council representing Phnom

Penh and its guerrilla opponents has been set up to implement a plan under which the United Nations takes control of the country's administration pending free elections.

The ASEAN meeting, a special conference hosted by Canada as a "dialogue partner" of the nations, while described as low key, yielded informal pledges from the ministers to increase pressure on Cambodia.

Cambodia to resolve the crisis through bilateral discussions.

LONDON (AP) — The British Academy of Film and Television Artists Sunday presented actor Sean Connery with a rare award for his outstanding contribution

moved." "This for me is certainly as important if not more so than the Oscars because I don't live either here or in America these days. I am very much an interna-

screen. Maybe we are short of real heroes, but he is a shining example of a hero for a whole generation." Director Sir Richard Attenborough said: "He is one of

Award. The previous winners were Dirk Bogarde and Julie Andrews. The 60-year-old actor, who was born in an Edinburgh tenement, is still one of the

Salinas for a spin

roadside restaurant. Violent storms forced the two presidents to cancel their flight to the Iguazu Falls in northern Argentina. Salinas was instead invited to

graphers, headed for the nearby Panamerican Highway where they lunched at a barbecue restaurant. Menem is known for his liking of fast cars and numbers

MALINDI, Kenya (AP) — Eduardo Agnelli, heir to the Fiat auto fortune, was acquitted on a

claimed Agnelli and his co-defendants threw a sachet of heroin into an adjoining room when police raided a home in the nearby village of Watamu on Aug. 21.

later outside the courtroom. "The whole thing was a plant and the judgment was very fair. God bless this country." Agnelli, 36, is the only son of Giovanni Agnel-

after 17 years

—

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Doris

for her to be in three TV films a year as a recurring character. The character is still in the planning stages. Production is expected to begin at the end of fall.

series was the comedy *The Doris Day Show* from 1968-73.